

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Coward era begins at Blue Mountain

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

"I enthusiastically accept the presidency of Blue Mountain College."

With those words on the morning of April 19, Bettye Rogers Coward was inaugurated as the seventh president in the 129-year history of Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College (BMC) in Blue Mountain — and the only woman to head a four-year institution of higher learning in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Envision with me a Blue Mountain College that is an outgrowth of her historic mission, a learning community that is inclusive, not exclusive, that uniquely expresses her greatest strengths. The college will attract students who desire to develop their God-given potential in a wholesome environment.

"Members of the community will come from all walks of life and background that will enrich the culture of the campus. Graduates of this college will leave her gates prepared for successful careers but, more importantly, they will leave the institution (as) people of Christian character, equipped, with a passion and commitment to a life of service to others, and with a resolve to make a difference wherever they go in whatever they do," Coward said in her inaugural response.

Coward outlined five directions BMC will embrace as fundamental to its strategic vision:

- ◆ "We will enroll and maintain an adequate student population with a mix of students who can best benefit from the Blue Mountain College experience.

"There are more students than the college is currently reaching who can benefit from coming to this college. We are focusing our recruiting efforts to identify these students, enroll them, and retain them through graduation.

"I have heard many times that Blue Mountain College is a well-kept secret. Well, it is time to let the secret out, and we will."

- ◆ "Enhancing the living and learning environment will be critical to attracting students to the college now and in the future. We are already taking steps to strengthen the learning environment.

"Outside the classroom, we will enhance facilities for student engagement. The physical setting of the college creates an environment conducive to thinking and learning and we will build on this strength."

- ◆ "We will offer the highest quality of academic programs which will prepare students for a world of changing careers and productive lives.

"Blue Mountain College will continue to offer a quality liberal arts education. The college will encourage students to passionately pursue intellectual growth, developing a joy in knowing and a commitment to lifelong learning."

- ◆ "We will find additional ways in which to integrate exemplary service into every aspect of campus life — service to our campus, the local and larger community, and to the denomination.

"Whosoever seeks to save his life shall lose it but he who loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matt. 16:25 NIV) If I understand this Scripture correctly, it is in serving others that we discover ourselves and the purpose for which we were created."

- ◆ "This vision for Blue Mountain College which I have outlined will take resources — we must and we will find them."

Coward closed by reminding those in attendance that what is "desperately needed in our all institutions" is wisdom beyond human capabilities.

"I encourage you to pray for this institution and its leadership in the days ahead. We have a wonderful legacy in the faith of our fathers, and God's faithfulness to us is and always will be unchanging.

"My prayer is that, in all we do during this presidency, that we, too, will be found faithful," she said.



NEW PRESIDENT — Linda Gholston (left) of Madison, chair of the Blue Mountain College board of trustees, prepares for the formal investiture of Bettye Rogers Coward (right) as the seventh president of Blue Mountain College during Coward's inaugural convocation April 19 on the college's campus in Blue Mountain. Gholston holds the newly-minted presidential medallion and chain of office, which was placed on Coward to complete her investiture. (Photo courtesy of Darrell Ivy/The Image Place)

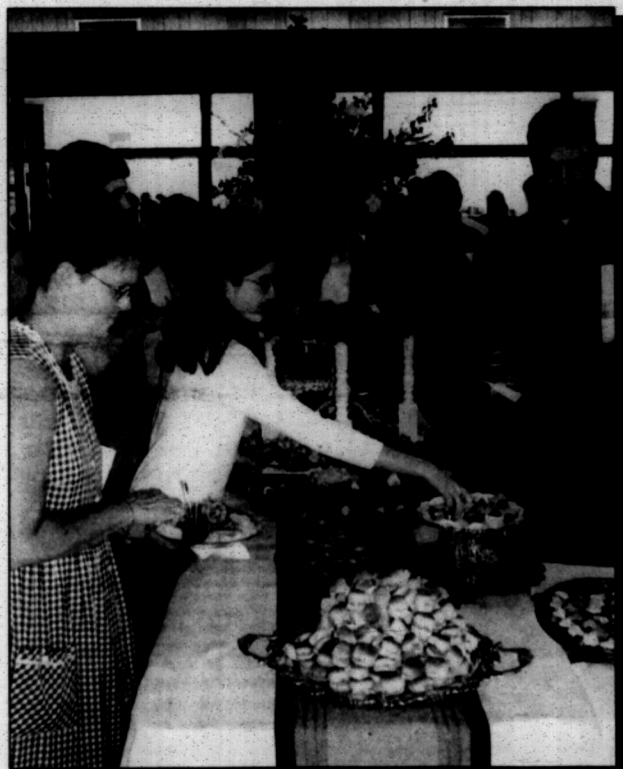
Coward served for 30 years at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, where she held the positions of professor of family and consumer services, department chair, and vice-president for academic affairs.

She earned the A.A. degree from Jones County Junior College in Ellisville; the B.S. degree in home economics education from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus; and both the M.S. degree in home economics education and Ed.D. degree in higher education administration from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

A native of Covington County and the granddaughter of a Baptist minister, Coward was named the 1999 Distinguished Professor at Mississippi College and was also recognized that year by the Mississippi Business Journal as one of Mississippi's 50 Leading Businesswomen.

For more information on BMC, contact the school at P.O. Box 160, Blue Mountain, MS 38610. Telephone: (662) 685-4771. E-mail: admissions@bmc.edu. Web site: www.bmc.edu.

Financial support for BMC is provided through the Mississippi Cooperative Program.



INAUGURAL RECEPTION — Friends of Blue Mountain College who attended the April 19 inaugural convocation of school's new president, Bettye Rogers Coward, enjoy the reception held after the inaugural at Pashcal Student Center on the college's campus in Blue Mountain. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



LIFTING PRAISE — The Blue Mountain College Chorale performs April 19 at the reception celebrating the inaugural convocation of Bettye Rogers Coward as the seventh president of the Baptist-affiliated college in Blue Mountain. Coward succeeds E. Harold Fisher, who retired after 36 years as president of the college. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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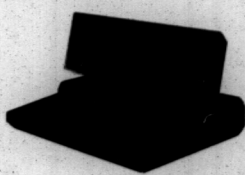
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The coming day of reckoning

"The little nut from the Christian group." That's how a staff editor at CBS News' Washington bureau described presidential candidate Gary Bauer in April 1999. It was an inside conference call, but it was going out to CBS News bureaus all over the country. It was a planning session for weekend news coverage. True, it wasn't said on the air for public consumption. But the bureau chiefs participating in the discussion met it with dead silence. No one protested. What that tells you is that this reflects an attitude prevalent in much of the major media. A shrug of the shoulders and "Doesn't everybody think so?" It is OK to slur fundamentalist Christians. But anyone making a similar disparaging remark about any of the "politically correct" minority groups would have been dismissed.

— Wes Vernon, NewsMax.com

When NewsMax.com reporter Wes Vernon wrote the preceding comments, he was referring to an incident described by veteran (and now former) CBS News correspondent Bernard Goldberg in *Bias*, his best-selling book on how the major news outlets in America slant coverage to fit their personal prejudices.

Goldberg's reward for revealing the truth was to be shunned by his peers at the network and eventually hounded from his 28-year job with CBS News. None other than CBS anchorman Dan Rather publicly criticized Goldberg, not because he was wrong about the liberal bias in network news but because he exposed it.

Having been the victims of some of the most unfair treatment at the hands of the national news media, Christians are not astonished by Goldberg's revelations.

While all Christians are not perfect (just forgiven), our depiction in the national news media has been seriously slanted. It's not just Christians who get the treatment, however.

When Matthew Sheperd was brutally murdered several years ago partly because of his homosexuality, the story was a national phenomenon. To this day, national news media and homosexual rights groups continue their collaboration to promote the

story. Made-for-television movies and documentaries have established that the young man was nothing short of a martyr for homosexual rights. The anniversary of his death is marked by national news media reports; year after year, we are reminded of the injustice of his death.

Yet when two homosexuals in Arkansas repeatedly raped and eventually smothered a young boy, almost no mention was made in the major news media. It didn't fit the image of homosexuality the networks wanted to portray.

Just last year, integrating homosexual scoutmasters into the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) organization was all the rage in the national news media. We were told that these kind, gentle souls could be placed in positions of trust and authority over adolescent boys. BSA's refusal to go along was relentlessly ridiculed as backward and prejudiced, and the organization lost many corporate sponsors. A color guard of Boy Scouts was even booed by delegates to the 2000 Democratic National Convention.

Yet since the scandal of child sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church broke several months ago, the voices crying over the national news media for homosexual scoutmasters have disappeared. Why? Turns out that it's not a good idea to have homosexuals in a position of trust and authority over adolescent boys, after all.

Why hasn't the national news media followed up on this story? Why hasn't the national news media told the truth about homosexual scoutmasters, as borne out in the tragedy of the Roman Catholic Church scandal?

"PASTORS WHO GOOF OFF WHEN THEY SHOULD BE PRAYING, THEN BLAME THEIR INADEQUACIES ON GOD NOT LEADING—NEXT ON GERALDO!"



The answer is, because they don't want to give us the whole story. They don't wish for us to know the dark side of homosexuality. They want to mainstream homosexuality, and this doesn't fit their agenda to tell us the whole truth.

Bernard Goldberg was right, and viewers continue to abandon network news shows by the millions because of the biased reporting of events. It's as if the media bigwigs don't see it happening, however.

If viewers continue to give up on network news, there will come a day of reckoning when there aren't enough people watching to pay the bills.

As Christians, let's do everything we can to hasten that day.

GUEST OPINION:



*Bible translation:
intense, satisfying*

By John Perry, Nashville

tuation and word order. Subtle differences in how sentences are broken up and how various sections are connected can dramatically improve readability. Moving words and clauses around a little can bring big improvements as well. When I want to change a word or verb tense, or anything else that might affect the meaning, I talk it over with one of the translators first.

Although I don't get caught up in scholarly arguments, I do ask questions about consistency and ease of reading. How easy is the translation to memorize? How does it flow when read aloud? Are there obscure words American readers might stumble over or misunderstand?

One more crucial element is the guffaw factor. Even if a translated phrase is clear and accurate, is it appropriate for Scripture? What about an irritated speaker saying, "Who are these guys?" Or an Old Testament patriarch calling somebody a jerk? Based on contemporary American English, these are probably the most accurate readings of these passages. Could a seventh-grader get through them without snickering? Could a layman read them from the lectern without hesitation? Probably not. So we settle on alternatives.

Once I've made my recommendations, the text goes to the general editor one last time to

make sure it still meets HCSB standards of accuracy. Though my emphasis is on readability, the meaning and the message always come first.

When a section of text is finally committed to type, my work is invisible if I've done it right. There's an inevitability about a good translation: whether you read it or listen to it, it sounds like it could never have been any other way. All the discussions and dueling e-mails about whether angels speak using contractions, and the countless other questions great and small that translators have wrestled with in a particular chapter or book, disappear beneath the surface, leaving a smooth, clean, confident page containing the inspired Word of God for a new generation and a new century.

Few projects in my life have been so intense and complicated. Fewer still have been so richly satisfying.

Perry is an author in Nashville, in addition to serving as an English stylist for the HCSB translation project. His column is provided courtesy of Baptist Press.

WorldCrafts program reaches milestone

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — WorldCrafts, a ministry of national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), reached a sales milestone in the 2001 fiscal year.

For the first time since its 1996 startup, the nonprofit ministry that markets handmade crafts from across the world broke even.

A look at the 2001 sales figures explains how the young ministry has become virtually self-supporting so quickly: Last year 43,340 items were sold, a 135% increase above the previous year's sales.

WorldCrafts project manager Karen Flowers attributes the sales increase to the popularity of their main marketing tool, WorldCrafts parties.

These parties are designed to be much like other home parties that feature Tupperware or Pampered Chef products. Hostesses purchase a party kit containing catalogs, a video, recipes, invitations, clip art and more.

"About 80% of the hostesses choose to have their parties at a church," Flowers said. "They are very popular with Women on Mission groups, Girls in Action [GAs] and Acteens."

WMU began promoting the 2001 about 425 party kits were parties nationwide in the fall of ordered. In this time of 2000, and one year later in fall increased patriotism, "Buy



FOR AMERICAN MARKET — An Indian woman works on a ring box in the tradition of zinc and silver Bidri art which originated more than 500 years ago and continues in only one part of Asian nation today. The finished product is part of the product line of WorldCrafts, a ministry and evangelism arm of Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP special photo)

American" is a popular plea. However, buying overseas with WorldCrafts is a great way to reach out to a lost world as a consumer, WMU officials say.

WorldCrafts assists men and women living in poverty by providing income.

These artisans are guaranteed a fair wage for their products. Sales of WorldCrafts elephants and turtles, for example, have made it possible for a church of around 50-plus attendees and a school of about 80 children in a community of 6,000-8,000 people to sustain themselves, writes Scot McHaney, a Southern Baptist missionary to Luanda, Angola.

In Thailand, the increased demand for WorldCrafts has allowed groups to add more workers.

The new Thai Country Trim (TCT) center in eastern Thailand provides sewing work for women like Nongklan, a single mother solely responsible for her two young children and two children from her husband's previous marriage and her sister's two children.

Nongklan told missionary Lynn Kinnison that she was considering suicide before she learned about TCT.

Through TCT, she is not only supporting her family, but she has also made a profession of faith. Kinnison writes, "Thanks to the ladies who purchase the items made by ladies all over Thailand.

"It is our greatest desire to see that this ministry is used to

share God's love with many, many others."

Besides providing income for those who desperately need it, WorldCrafts provides a legitimate reason for missionaries to remain in countries closed to the Gospel.

As these missions specialists will attest, getting a foot in the door of these closed nations is a huge battle won, via WorldCrafts artisans and go-betweens who are committed to fulfilling orders and maintaining contact.

With more than 130 different items, a great variety is available in the WorldCrafts catalog. From the popular Turkey shopping bag to the Jordan olive-wood Christmas ornaments that have had to be reordered frequently, there's something for everyone.

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SBC tops 16 million

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Membership in Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) churches set an all-time record in 2001 with a total of 16,052,920 persons, an increase of 92,612 over the previous year. Total number of churches grew to 42,334, a 1.79% increase, or 746 churches more than the 2000 total of 41,588. At the same time, church-type missions operated by churches declined by 5.91% or 310 to a total of 4,933. LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention compiles the Annual Church Profile from church reports routed through local Baptist associations and state conventions. While membership grew — though the increase of 0.58% was less than the gain of 108,552 or 0.68% in 2000 — baptisms declined by 18,727 or 4.52% to a total of 395,930. The decline ends four years of baptisms totals above 400,000. Music ministry enrollment/participation increased 3.29% or 54,442 to a total of 1,709,319. This followed a year of decline by 0.72% in 2000. Sunday morning average worship attendance grew by 3.36% or 186,541 to 5,730,980. Other increases were reported in total tithes, offerings and special gifts to \$8,314,899,294 (6.68% above 2000), as well as undesignated receipts of \$6,445,430,643 (7.77 percent above 2000). Total receipts increased by 5.90% to \$8,935,013,659. Sunday School enrollment declined 3,671 or 0.04% to a total of 8,182,744, following an increase of 0.48% in 2000. Discipleship training enrollment/participation declined 6.24%, or 137,713 to a total of 2,070,714, following an 11.75% increase in 2000. Other declines were registered in Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) enrollment and Men/Boys Mission Education Enrollment. WMU enrollment declined 34,477 or 3.86% to a total of 857,680. Men/Boys Mission Education Enrollment dropped 13.29% or 64,773 to 422,637. Total value of church property grew 13.83% to \$28,686,588,811. This increase is due, in part, to reporting from more states in 2001 than those reporting in 2000.

Looking back

10 years ago

Baptists Committed, one of several opposition groups that sprang up as fundamental-conservatives rose to power in the Southern Baptist Convention, is closing its doors after four years, according to James Slatton, chairman of the group's executive committee.

20 years ago

Cleavers in hand, Southern Baptist newspaper editors are hacking issues, cutting pages, slashing travel and, of course, raising rates to stay solvent during the budget year due to an unexpected loss of postal subsidy for second class non-profit mailers.

50 years ago

Progress Church, Pike Association, establishes what pastor James R. Hodges calls "The Little Church," run by the juniors and primaries, with its own deacons, treasurer, clerk, and pianist. Hodges felt that the children were not getting the proper Bible instruction from the regular worship services.

Sex weekend prompts SBC cancellation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and Howard Johnson Hotels are parting ways after it was revealed that the hotel chain is hosting a private sex bash in one of its hotels in St. Louis — the host city for the 2002 annual meeting of the SBC.

The uproar started when the Howard Johnson St. Louis Airport franchise announced it was hosting the sixth annual "Beat Me in St. Louis" conference April 26-28. The "educational pansexual event" is sponsored by St. Louis Leather and Lace (StL3), a group "dedicated to the free expression of alternative lifestyles and forms of loving."

Missionary returns to fruitful outreach site

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The most joyful Lord's Supper Sam James ever experienced was served in silence — on a rusted table in a park.

Nearly 15 years after South Vietnam's fall to communism drove James and other missionaries out, he returned for a brief visit in 1989. He sent a message to Vietnamese Christian friends that he was coming but doubted he would see any of them. Most had suffered years of prison, "re-education" camps and persecution for following Christ.

As he emerged from his hotel in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) one morning, someone brushed by and pressed a message into his hand: "Meet us at the park at 2 o'clock." When he arrived at the park, a man led him through a jungle of overgrown weeds to a tiny clearing.

Seven of his former seminary students waited there, seated around an old wrought-iron table. They were so gaunt and frail that he barely recognized them at first. They embraced him with tears and laughter and spoke of the trials they had faced under communism.

"One of them reached into a paper bag, pulled out an aluminum tray and set it on the table," James recalls. "Another pulled out a loaf of French bread and set it on the tray; another had a little bunch of grapes. One of them broke the bread and began to pass it around. We each took a grape. Nobody said it was the Lord's Supper, but we knew what it was."

James remembers something else about these men: Years earlier, when they first arrived at the Baptist seminary in Saigon asking to study the Bible, they were rowdy, ragged country folk — nothing like the

sophisticated students from the city. James never thought they'd pass the first class, much less endure years of suffering for Christ.

"Yet they're the ones who gathered in that little clearing 14 years later to serve the Lord's Supper to me, their teacher," he says. "It just shows how God's transforming power can take anybody — anybody — and make us into what he wants us to be."

Case in point: to the mission of training Christian leaders, but even in retirement he is James himself. still most excited about the future. New Gen Xer missionaries are a generation of learners, open to advice and counsel, eager for mentors, and North Carolina willing to work with others, he says. (BP photo by Sandy King)



Depression, he grew up poor — "so poor even the poor people felt sorry for us." His father was alcoholic but hardworking and too proud to accept help from local folks, Franklin D. Roosevelt, or anyone else.

Yet James and his two brothers were the first college graduates in the area. His brothers became physicians. James went on to "one of the most varied and illustrious careers of any missionary in our time — or any time," declares Avery Willis, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) chief of overseas operations.

James, 69, recently retired from the board after 40 years of service. Among other things, he:

- helped start Southern Baptist mission work in South Vietnam with his wife, Rachel, and other missionaries;
- founded and directed the Vietnamese Baptist Theological Seminary, training a generation of Vietnamese pastors;
- led and ministered to hundreds of missionaries during stints as field representative and area director for East Asia and regional vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa;

- spearheaded the IMB International Center for Excellence in Leadership to increase the strategic impact of missionaries;

- prepared thousands of new missionaries as the primary creative force behind Southern Baptists' Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. It opened in 1983 and recently underwent a major expansion.

As a young man, James joined the Navy to escape his hardscrabble hometown. He served on an aircraft carrier that cruised to various Asian ports during the Korean War. While on shore leave in Japan, he was approached by a Japanese student on a train.

"My professor told me to believe in Jesus," the student said. "How do you believe?" James had no answer.

"She bowed very politely, got off the train and I never saw her again," he recalls, "but when the train started off, every turn of the wheels said, 'How do you believe? How do you believe?' It just echoed in my mind."

Back on board ship, he found an empty spot under the flight deck and read the Gospels with a flashlight (a wartime blackout was in effect). "It was like the heavens opened; I realized who Jesus is for the first time in my life." He believed.

That was 50 years ago. Looking out over the Asian ports of call, including Vietnam, James also sensed a call to the world. "I realized I couldn't go back to living in a town with eight churches — two of them Baptist — and 1,400 people," he says.

After college and seminary, he returned to Vietnam as a missionary with his wife, Rachel, and three young children in 1962. He wanted to start churches but soon realized he could multiply his impact by training Vietnamese church starters. His teaching ministry was born.

Curious about how you fit into what God is doing overseas? <http://www.imb.org/FPNeds/default.htm>

Report: missionary ransom negotiations fail

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A \$300,000 ransom payment has failed to free American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham from a militant Muslim group in the Philippines linked to Osama bin Laden's terrorist network.

The Abu Sayyaf Group has demanded \$200,000 more for the Burnhams' release, according to an April 26 report in The New York Times. The Burnhams, who were kidnapped on May 27, 2001, are affiliated with New Tribes Mission (NTM) based in Sanford, Fla.

The Times reported that Burnham's mother, Oreta Burnham, said family members had expected her son and daughter-in-law to be released around Easter after the group received a \$300,000 ransom payment. She otherwise refused to discuss details of the hoped-for release of the couple.

The Times quoted sources as saying that the Philippine police did not inform the Philippine military after arranging for the payment to the Abu Sayyaf Group out of a concern that the military would siphon off some of the ransom money, which has happened previously.

The Times also noted that joint maneuvers by Philippine soldiers and American Special Forces on an island where the Burnhams have been held may have derailed the arrangement. New Tribes Mission, in an April 25 news release,

acknowledged that the families of the Burnham had reached a deal for their release, but the missions agency said it "was not party to" any deal for the couple.

"NTM was not involved in any deal," NTM said April 25. "The mission was not consulted about this agreement. The families acted independently of NTM. New Tribes Mission maintains its policy to not pay ransom. NTM was not aware the family members were involved in a deal until they revealed it to mission representatives in confidence Saturday, April 20."

To those who have been praying for the Burnhams, NTM said: "In the midst of the uncertainties of politics, deals and military actions, your prayers are all the more valued and necessary."

New Tribes Mission issued a news release March 26 also denying "any participation in attempts to pay ransom

or raise money for ransom" for the release of Burnham, 42, and his wife, Gracia, 43.

New Tribes Mission acknowledged there has been a shift in U.S. policy on ransom payments, but the missions agency stated that it would continue its longstanding "no ransom" position "for a number of reasons, none of which has to do with the value we place on our missionaries."

"Paying ransom only increases the risk of future kidnappings. As missionaries, the nature of our work makes us vulnerable to kidnappings," NTM said in March. "Therefore, major mission organizations have agreed to establish a no ransom position in order to send the message that it is not profitable to kidnap missionaries."

The interdenominational missions agency specializes in planting indigenous churches among unevangelized people groups in remote areas around the world.

The Burnhams have been NTM workers since 1985; he is a pilot and she also works in conjunction with NTM aviation needs. Martin Burnham grew up in the Philippines, where his parents have been missionaries for more than 32 years.

The New Tribes Mission's website is www.ntm.org; e-mail updates about the Burnhams can be received by sending an e-mail to: ntm-burnham-subscribe@yahoo.com.



Martin and Gracia Burnham

I recently heard someone refer to wrinkles as the tracks that are left behind by smiles. Immediately, I began to think about all the people I know and have known who have numerous wrinkles and decided that was true. More than just the aging process, their faces have gone through exercises of expanding, contracting, smiling, and then just looking normal. Most of them have a quick, responsive, warm smile that just seems to break out more frequently than some of the rest of us.

Some of the folks I remembered and thought about could not only smile but could literally light up a room. As time passed, they continued to smile and more and deeper tracks were left behind. Most folks, especially ladies, generally do not want to develop any wrinkles. I find it interesting that folks who smile readily often have a spirit that overshadows any of the "smile" tracks left behind. These folks become living, expository sermons explaining the proverb that says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

While "smile" tracks are wonderful things and greatly appreciated, I have also observed that a few folks have developed "growl" tracks. They are similar to "smile" tracks, but they are turned upside down and they too continue to increase with age. "Growl" tracks seem to be deeper, less attractive, and longer lasting than "smile" tracks.

I saw an interview with an outstanding athlete, who is now retired, as he was being asked what it was like to play for a legendary coach. The coach had been highly successful, the team had won many



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

championships, and this guy had played for him for years. He chuckled before he began his response and then he said, "I can tell you one thing, he could suck the last ounce of joy out of a room simply by walking through the door." I guess for a coach that is good, but for most of us, that is pretty bad!

Do you know folks like that? Some spouses feel that way about each other. Some children feel that way about their parents and some parents feel that way about their youngsters. Maybe you know someone at work or at church whose "growl" affects everyone around them that way. "Growl" tracks are not magnetic, appreciated, or valuable. The longer they stay the worse they get, until they reach a point where they almost become repulsive.

In my limited research, I have found that it is almost impossible to get rid of "growl" tracks. Some people try makeup and that doesn't work. A few have even been to plastic surgeons and they could do very little. I have even heard of some that tried to stand on their heads attempting to make their "growl" tracks look like "smile" tracks, but it really didn't have the same effect! The only way that "growl" tracks can really be dealt with is to probe deeper, going past the epidermis, and reaching all the way to the heart where differences can be made.

The best thing to do if you suspect that you are developing "growl" tracks is not to just look into the mirror and make an examination there, but open your heart and take a good examination before the mirror of God's Word. Some of us may be surprised, even shocked, that we have "growl" tracks! When "growl" tracks are not dealt with they become so deeply imbedded that they turn into "scowl" tracks and last for a life-

time. It doesn't happen instantly or even over night. Slowly, the negative disposition toward life hardens into unsightly and unwelcome scowls that are unchanging and even the dog is unable to recognize the person.

I once knew of a man in a church who felt obligated to go to his pastor at least once a week and complain about something that was or wasn't happening and report on those things which "a lot of people were talking about." He was a good guy, faithful in attendance and up to date in his criticism. Finally, one day as he was giving his check list of complaints to his minister, the pastor said, "Can I ask you a question?" The man replied, "Why sure." The pastor said, "How long have you been a member of this church? (It had been decades.) In all of these years have you ever heard of or known of one good thing that ever took place in the life and

ministry of this church?" The man replied, "Why sure, a lot of good things have happened." The pastor replied, "Really?" The man responded, "Yeah, a lot of good things are going on now." The pastor said, "Do you realize that not one time have I heard you tell me, or anyone else, about something good that the Lord was doing." The man replied, "No, I am always telling people about good things in our church." The pastor told him, "I am glad to know that. I just had not heard you saying those good things." The man responded, "Well, I have been needing to talk to you about the fact that some people say that you just don't listen to what they are saying." The preacher responded, "I will try to do better." Bless his heart, the poor fellow never realized that his "growling" had turned to permanent "scowling."

With a measure of grace and joy that only flows from Heaven, God can change "growl" tracks into rays of smiling sunshine that warms up not only your face but other folks as well. Take time to allow God to do some surgery in your heart that will be reflected on your face and then show up at Sunday School this week. You will be amazed how happy you will be to be there and how happy everybody will be to see you coming!

House passes transport ban for abortions

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill to protect parents' rights when an underage girl is seeking an abortion outside her state in order to avoid a parental involvement law. In action April 17, the House voted 260-161 in favor of the Child Custody Protection Act, H.R. 476. The legislation would make it a federal offense for a person to transport a minor across state lines for an abortion when the state in which the girl lives requires either parental notification or consent before such a procedure.

It marks the third time in five years the House has approved the bill. It appears, however, Senate approval may be a problem again. The House easily adopted the measure in 1998 and 1999, but the bill died in the Senate both times.

Va. Baptists to meet in rare session

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Virginia Baptists will meet May 10 in a rare special session to vote on a new missions vision that leaders say is designed to expand and strengthen the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) and position it for the 21st century.

The Virginia Baptist Mission Board unanimously affirmed the vision April 10, saying it would send a signal to the 1,400 BGAV congregations and affiliated agencies that "everyone has a place at the table."

Tentatively called "Kingdom Advance," the still-evolving plan would fund and administer missions workers in Virginia, the United States and around the world; aggressively start and rejuvenate churches; identify and develop a new generation of leaders; and empower

pastors and other church staff to minister more effectively.

The vision will be presented as a still-developing process at a called meeting of the BGAV on May 10 in Charlottesville, Va. The meeting's location, First Church of Charlottesville, carries symbolic weight for most Virginia Baptists as the congregation that baptized Southern Baptist missionary pioneer Lottie Moon in 1858.

It will be the first called meeting of the BGAV since 1986, when the General Association was asked to buy what is now the Virginia Baptist Resource Center in Richmond.

The impetus for "Kingdom Advance" came from John Upton, who on March 1 became executive director of the BGAV and the Mission Board, which functions as the BGAV's executive body. He had spent the previous six years as a board staff member, coordinating Virginia Baptists' mission endeavors.

He said the initiative would require about one million dollars annually in new money. Details

of "Kingdom Advance" are intentionally incomplete, Upton said, because this vision "has to bubble up from the grassroots."

He said his "dream" would be to begin funding the initiative this fall and to have two missionary couples commissioned by Jan. 1, 2003 — one in Europe to coordinate work with the BGAV's mission partners there and another to minister among the growing Muslim population in the Washington suburbs of Northern Virginia.

Though introduction of "Kingdom Advance" comes on the heels of controversial actions by the Southern Baptist Convention's two mission agencies, Upton said his vision for Virginia Baptists' future was not motivated primarily by recent decisions of the International Mission Board (IMB) and North American Mission Board (NAMB).

The NAMB earlier this year announced it will not endorse ordained women as chaplains, while the IMB now requires its missionaries to sign the 2000 version of the Baptist Faith and Message statement. Southern Baptist Convention moderates have criticized both actions.

"I know the context we live in," said Upton. "You can't avoid the political dimensions."

Cruger Baptist Church
Cruger, MS
invites you to

"FAMILY DAY"

Sunday, May 5th
from 10 a.m. - until
at Cruger/Tchula Academy

Activities include:

- Dinner on the Grounds
- Gospel Concert by PROMISED
- AWESOME GAMES
- Giant Slide
- Moon Walk
- Bungee Run
- Giant Slide
- Avalanche Mountain

For more information call
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Fourteen children from Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, participated in Bible Drill this year, with thirteen of them participating in the state drill. Participants pictured are: (front row, from left) Kalie King; Austin Moore; (second row) Denise Holland, leader; Emily Guthrie; Judith Pollard; Amanda Jones; Blake Ellis; Lauren Hall; (third row) Vernon Hawes, assistant leader; Shelley Ballentine; Jayme Hollingsworth; Kalyann Duhon; Molly Stillions; Mary Kristian Hawes; (fourth row) Morgan Hall; Tyler Ellis; and Marcia Stillions, assistant leader. Not pictured are: Grady Jones; Britney Shepherd; and Grady C. Jones, assistant leader.

VBS date

Highland, Natchez: May 27-31; 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.; Saturday, May 25, fun day, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; ages 3 - 12 years.

Church of the Highlands, Ridgeland, (formerly Van Winkle Church) will hold groundbreaking services on May 5 at 6 p.m., at their property on Highland Colony Parkway. Barbeque supper, 6:45 p.m. For information call (601) 981-1070.

Kellie Blackmon of DeRidder, La., will be in concert at Crosby Church, Crosby, May 4 at 7 p.m. Free admission. A love offering will be taken. Call (601) 639-4527 for more information.

Temple Church, Hattiesburg, took a mission trip to the School of the Deaf in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, March 2-9. Workers provided 46 hearing aids to children at the school and performed extensive hearing tests on 80 children. A return visit is planned next spring. Old hearing aids are needed, and these can be donated to the church.

Children from Pleasant Grove Church, Chickasaw Association, collected shoe boxes and filled them with toys for Operation Christmas Child. Jeff Gilder is the pastor.

Freedom Church, Laurel, recently hosted World Help's Children of the World



Children of the World International Children's Choir

International Children's Choir advantaged children from Nepal, on April 3. The choir is made up of 23 orphaned and disadvantaged children from Nepal, India, Burma, Uganda, and the Philippines.



State Bible Drill winners from Yale Street Church, Cleveland, are (from left), Ashley Allen, Bethany Jones, Margaret Hunter, Kaylee Ledford, and Laura Wilson. Bible drill leaders are Mary Helen Kitrell and Trudie Weeks.



Preschool children of Hillcrest, Jackson



Senior Stewardship® Luncheon

A ministry outreach designed to help the 55-Plus crowd protect what they've worked a lifetime to acquire.

"Sold Out" Ministries of Madison, Miss., will gladly co-host this luncheon for your church or community senior adult group **AT NO COST** for groups of **TWENTY OR MORE** anywhere in the state of Mississippi. (Those under 55 are welcome; we just like to give special attention to those more mature in age!)

Here is what you get:

*A Great Heart-Healthy Lunch (FREE) *An encouraging word from God's Word

*Complete information packet about special needs in life that must be considered in the "golden years"

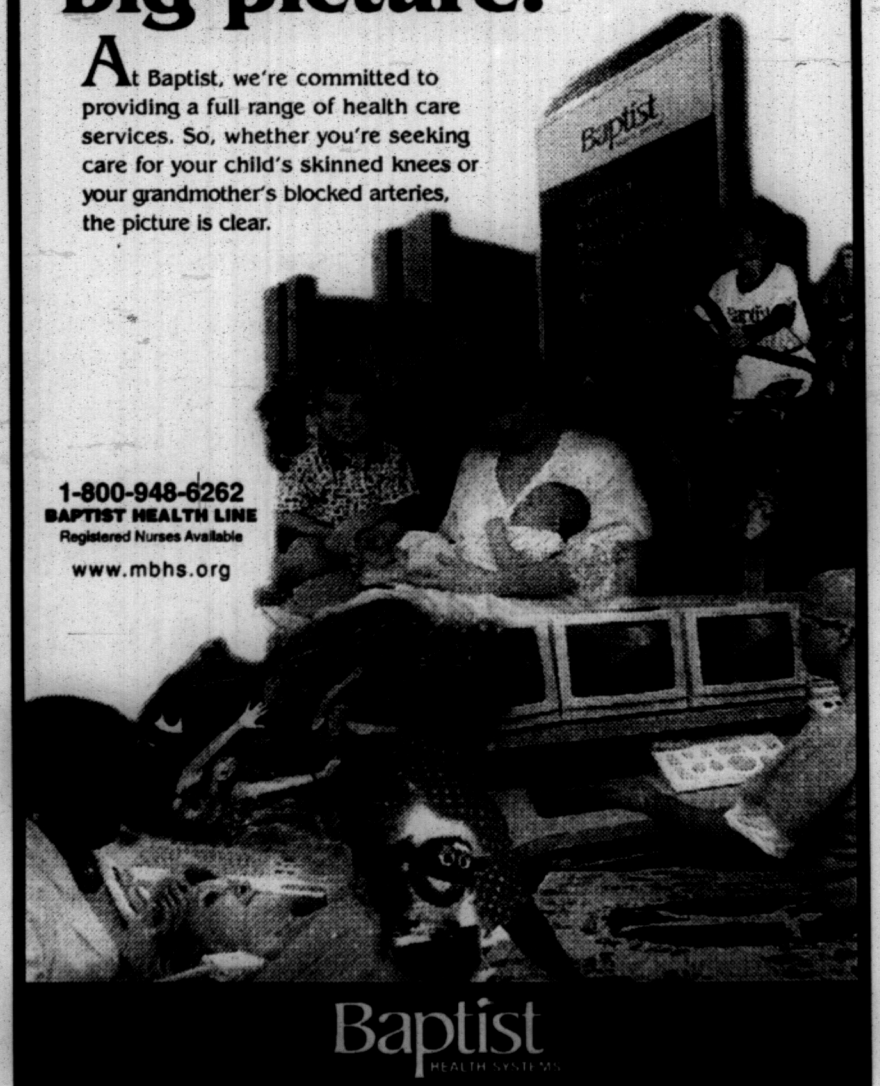
*A Special Gift for all ladies who attend *A great door prize given at each luncheon

Some life-issues are better discussed from a Christian worldview, so call "Sold Out" Ministries, Inc. and ask Rev. Royce R. Lott, Jr., to schedule a Senior Stewardship® Luncheon for your group, or ask your church senior adult minister to call. Contact Rev. Lott at 1-800-826-3175, ext. 375.

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Baptist
HEALTH SYSTEMS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 2, 2002

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

**Mississippi
BIBLE
DRILL**



OLDER CHILDREN'S Bible Drill Camp

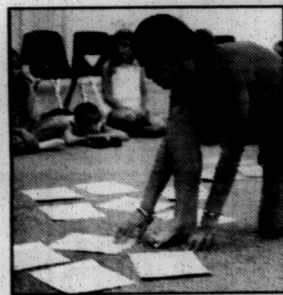
July 1-3, 2002

(Boys and girls
who have completed grades 3-6)

July 1-3 (cycle 1)

**Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko, Miss.**

Cost: \$85



Purpose:

For church groups (with sponsors), whether or not their church has Bible Drill, to participate in personal Bible study, Scripture memorization, Bible skills, worship, time with missionaries, spiritual growth, swimming, horseback riding, rifle range, archery and canoeing.

Schedule: Monday, 1:30 p.m. – Registration
Wednesday, noon – Goodbye

Special policy requires churches to send adult counselors (21 years or older) with groups of young people under 18 years of age. If the group includes both boys and girls, a counselor of the same sex is required for each seven girls (or portion thereof) and for each seven boys (or portion thereof). Counselors will be responsible for the conduct of the children they bring and will participate with them throughout camp.

Please fill out the registration form below and return

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Highlights: horseback riding, rope course, canoeing, crafts, olympic pool, morning flag ceremonies

BIBLE DRILL CAMP

Name of contact person _____

Church _____

Church address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Adult sponsors' names _____

Attach extra sheet including names and ages of children. Enclose \$45 deposit per person.

**Return this form or any requests for
Central Hills information**

to: Jim Ray

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

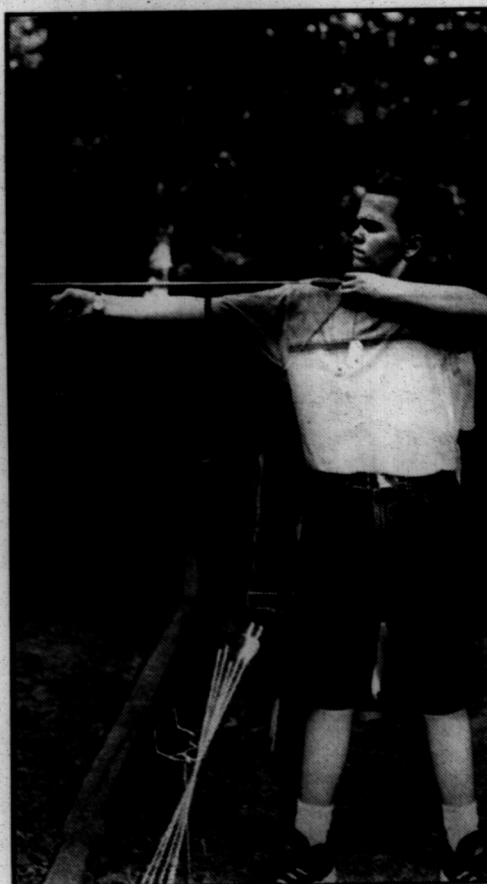
P.O. Box 698

Kosciusko, MS 39090

Phone (662) 289-9730

Program Information: Call Don Hicks in the
Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept.
at (601) 968-3800 or 1 (800) 748-1651,
or E-mail at dhicks@mbcb.org.

Please do not mail before March 1.



SISTERS WHO CARE

RETREAT

MAY 24-27, 2002

PATTERSON PLACE LODGE

CAMP GARAYWA



Featuring "Miss Chocolate"
Gwen Williams
New Orleans, La.

Join us and the women of Seventh Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md.,
for this celebration experience!

- "Women and Their Money" led by Rebecca Williams
- "Building Your Leadership Skills" led by Laura Leathers

For more info, contact the WMU at 1 (800) 748-1651, or in Jackson (601) 292-3324.

International Missions Conference Celebrating our Emeritus Missionaries

Ridgecrest, N.C.

July 27 - August 2, 2002

Bible Study Leader: Robertson McQuilkin

Mississippi WMU is sponsoring a bus trip to the last International Missions Conference being held at the LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. Our bus will depart from Camp Garaywa on July 26 and return on August 3.

Cost: \$605 (estimate)

Cost details are on registration form which is available from the Mississippi WMU Office at 1 (800) 748-1651, ext. 316 or E-mail: nmason@mbcb.org to request a form.

A deposit of \$75 is due by May 24, 2002. Final payments, cancellations, and substitutions are due by June 18, 2002.

You can find more information and a registration form under EVENTS on the Mississippi Baptist Web site: www.MBCB.org.

We're loading up the bus...are you going to be on it???

The Great Expedition!



Associational Leadership Training

Special Guest:

BARBARA JOINER

**May 17 - 18, 2002
Camp Garaywa**

For more information on WMU leadership training please contact the state WMU office at 1 (800) 748-1651, or in Jackson (601) 292-3323, or E-mail tanderson@mbcb.org.

*Please display
this poster in a
prominent place
in your church as
a reminder to*

*Pray for our
BSU Summer
Missionaries.*

*Former
Mississippi
BSU Summer
Missionaries...*

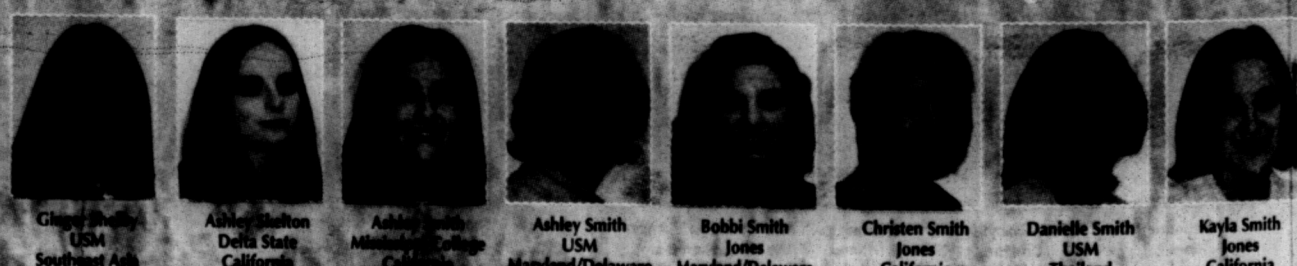
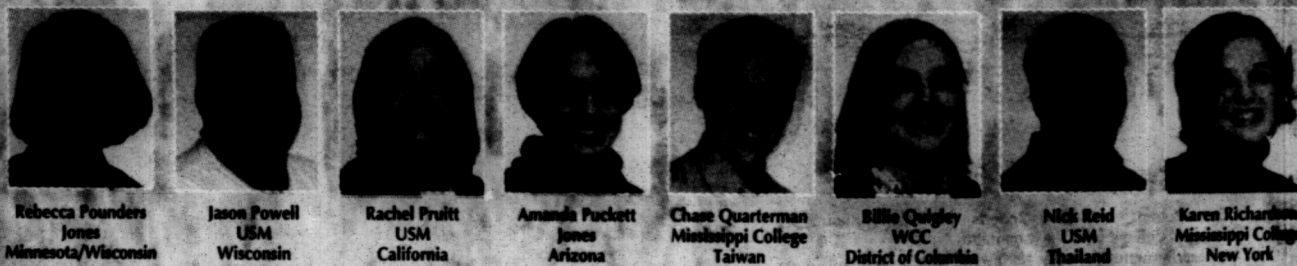
we're looking for you!!!

*Have you ever heard of a
Mississippi BSU Summer
Missionary? Please pray for
them. They are people who
are called to go to other
countries to share the Gospel
with people who have never
heard of Jesus. We challenge
you to pray for them.*

*For more information, visit
our website at www.mississippi-bsu.org
or contact us at info@mississippi-bsu.org
or call us at 601-988-1234.*



MISSISSIPPI SUMMER





Stephanie Cottrell Pearl River Maryland/Delaware
 Evan Craft Jones Alaska
 Kasia Crider Co-Lin Kentucky
 William Carpenter MSU Kansas
 Josh Burnham MSU Florida
 Linda Buchanan URM Maryland/Delaware
 New Mexico
 Illinois
 New Mexico

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MISSIONARIES 2002



Adam Frazer Mississippi College Burkina Faso
 Kristin Gardner East Central Arizona
 Mary Gashin Northeast Maryland/Delaware
 Kristin Gilmer Mississippi College Hawaii
 Josh Gibson Gulf Coast Wisconsin
 Jennifer Good UM District of Columbia
 Josephine Gorman Ballou Central & Southern Asia
 Rebecca Harding Delta State Arizona
 Wendy Hansen URM Canada
 Deb Francis Blue Mountain Maryland/Delaware
 Matt Flynn MSU Philippines
 Sarah Foster Co-Lin Texas
 Jimmy Flake Itasca Montana
 Michael Everett WCC Hawaii



Bethany Jones Mississippi College Kentucky
 Mandy Humphreys Pearl River Pacific Northwest
 Josh Hughes Mississippi College Burkina Faso
 Matt King MSU Tennessee
 Hilary Kelly MSU Oklahoma
 Buddy Kelley Pearl River Alaska
 Matt Lott Northeast New Mexico
 Beth Luyken Mississippi College Maryland/Delaware
 Niamya Luvumika Hindu Illinois
 Casey MacCarter Mississippi College Hawaii
 Dorian Kilo Hindu Colorado
 Matt Lott Northeast New Mexico
 Bethany Jones Mississippi College Kentucky



David Palmer Meridian Central & Southern Asia
 Liz Palmer Pearl River Colorado
 Nick Parish WCC Burkina Faso
 Jeff Patten East Central Canada
 Rachel Patten Delta State Arizona
 Dylan Peoples Mississippi College Burkina Faso
 Jacob Pierce East Central New Jersey
 David Povey Mississippi College Kansas/Nebraska
 David Povey Mississippi College Kansas/Nebraska
 Jacob Pierce East Central New Jersey
 Dylan Peoples Mississippi College Burkina Faso
 Rachel Patten Delta State Arizona
 Jeff Patten East Central Canada
 Nick Parish WCC Burkina Faso
 Liz Palmer Pearl River Colorado
 David Palmer Meridian Central & Southern Asia



Carlos Rodriguez WCC South Korea
 Chris Roberts Blue Mountain Pacific Northwest
 Steve Roberts Mississippi College Maryland/Delaware
 Richarda Patti Mississippi College New York



Brian Stoddard Jones Wales
 Li Shearer MSU Alaska



Lindsey Spencer Meridian Thailand
 Brianna Spell Jones Kenya
 Trey Spangler Co-Lin Montana
 Wes Smith Jones Burkina Faso
 La Smith Jones California



Beth Vinton WCC Canada
 Mel Usher WCC California
 Erica Talbot East Central California
 Stephanie Tracy Mississippi College Philippines
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People
 everywhere
 People who
 need
 Jesus



*Please display
this poster in a
prominent place
in your church as
a reminder to*

*Pray for our
BSU Summer
Missionaries.*

*Former
Mississippi
BSU Summer
Missionaries...*

we're looking for you!!!

*Have you ever served as a
Mississippi BSU Summer
Missionary? Have you ever heard of
one? Have you ever thought of
serving? Have you ever served
and then returned home with
a new vision? We are looking for
you to serve again.*

*Contact Mary Ann Jones
at (601) 978-1234*

or (601) 978-1234

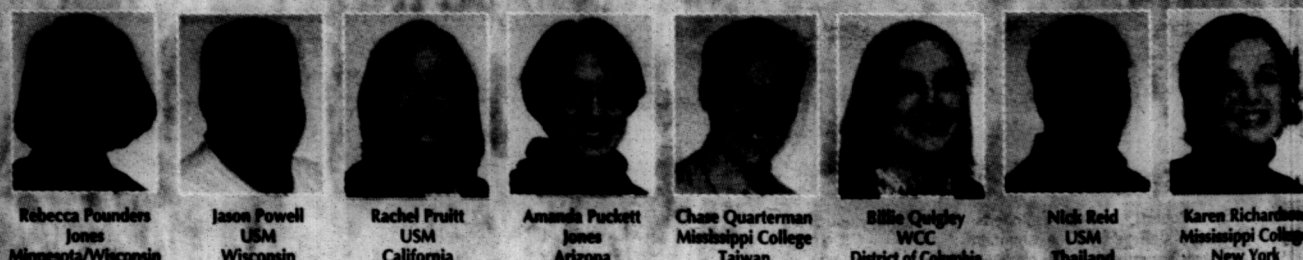
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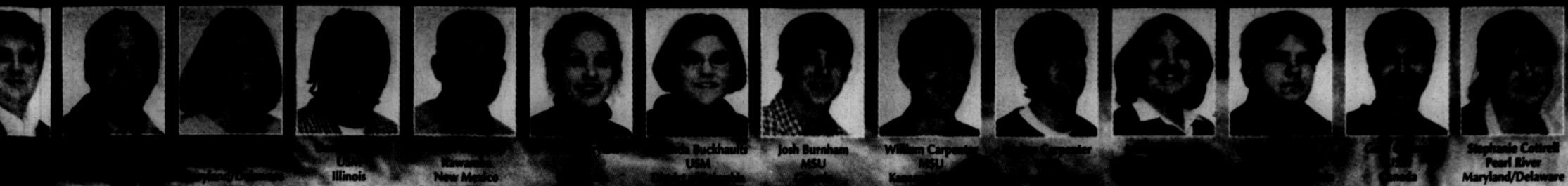
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MISSISSIPPI SUMMER

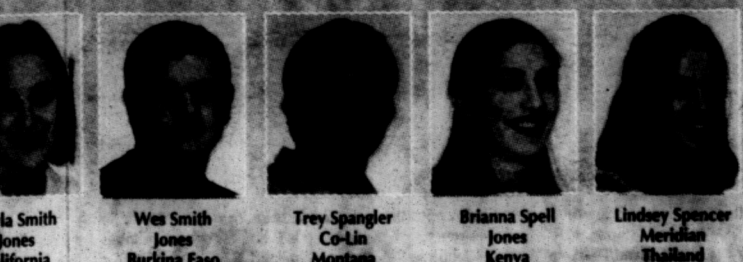
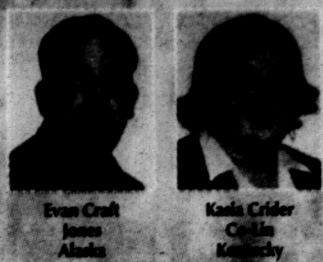


Kristi Rounsaville Jones California
 Will Sablin Northeast Illinois
 Aaron Saffley Mississippi College Burkina Faso
 Lori Sanders Blue Mountain Thailand
 Waygon Sanders Co-Lin Maryland/Delaware
 Sally Smith MSU Maryland/Delaware
 Michael Schepmaker Pearl River New Jersey
 Kandi Shearer MSU Alaska
 Ginger Shelly USM Southeast Asia
 Ashley Shelton Delta State California
 Ashley Smith Mississippi College California
 Ashley Smith USM Maryland/Delaware
 Bobbi Smith Jones Maryland/Delaware
 Christen Smith Jones California
 Danielle Smith USM Thailand
 Kayla Smith Jones California
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 Carrie Spillie WCC Minnesota/Wisconsin
 C.J. Stevenson Mississippi College Philippines
 Heidi Street USM Taiwan
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 Robert Swartz USM District of Columbia
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MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT UNION

MISSIONARIES 2002



*People
everywhere
People who
need
Jesus*



Pray this day for...

May 3 - 16, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

"O BELIEVING BRETHERN! What an instrument is this, which God hath put into your hands! Prayer moves Him, that moves the universe."

Robert Murray McChesney

For: (1) Christian Home Week, 5th - 12th (D&FM Emphasis); (2) Pray that Guang-Xi's Governor Li Zhaozhao would use his power to promote righteous living and religious freedom for Christians in both registered and unregistered churches in Guangxi.

For: (1) Mother's Day; (2) Baptist Children's Village Special Day Offering; (3) Pray for Christian workers who are field testing a new means of evangelizing the estimated 85 million illiterate people in China. Innovative means are required to allow these millions of people to be reached for Christ.

Pray for the cell groups meeting around the city of Aguascalientes, Mexico. Pray that members would have the desire to invite neighbors to meetings. Also pray for many in the group who face persecution and humiliation from family and friends. Pray that they can stand firm in the midst of the battle.

For: (1) Senior Adult Conference, Gulfshore (D&FM); (2) Missionaries serving among the Beng people in Cote D'Ivoire rejoice that there is at least one literacy class in every village. Pray that the people's desire to read would grow. Pray also for the Beng language Bible translation currently underway.

For: (1) Area Senior Adult Choir Festival, Daniel Memorial BC, Jackson (CM); (2) Basoga Team members in Uganda ask us to pray for those who are practicing child sacrifice, that they will come to know of the ultimate sacrifice of Christ. Many of the political leaders are allowing this to continue.

For: (1) ALT - Associational Leadership Training, Alta Woods BC, Jackson (ChMin); (2) Students on campus of the Int'l Baptist Seminary of Eastern Africa have been invited to teach religion in a local high school in Tanzania. Pray that many students will come to know Christ because of this ministry.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 5th - 10th; (2) In several different Muslim people groups across the world, there are small new groups of believers who have recognized Jesus as the answer they have been seeking. Pray that they will be bold to share their faith with family, friends and coworkers.

Pray for ISC workers Randy and Helen Greer as they research ways to witness to military personnel in Moscow, Russia. They plan to support existing ministries to military personnel, as well as to plant churches among them. Pray that God will give that group of men and women a hunger to study God's Word.

For: (1) Area Senior Adult Choir Festival, Emmanuel BC, Grenada (CM); (2) The Gathering...A Retreat for Ministers, Garaywa, Clinton (D&FM); (3) Some representatives' visas will soon expire in Bangladesh. Pray that one family's visa can be renewed with a long duration so they can continue as witnesses for Christ.

For: (1) Area Senior Adult Choir Festival, FBC, Hattiesburg (CM); (2) There is a need for volunteer teams to minister this summer, alongside British churches in England, for Holiday Bible Clubs. Pray that God will call workers to this field of harvest and that they will respond.

For: (1) Witnessing Through Media, Colonial Heights BC, Jackson (CS); (2) Mid-South Bivocational Ministers' Celebration, Pearson BC, Pearl, (CAPM); (3) Chaplains Spring Retreat, Gulfshore, Pass Christian- (SMC).

Pray for FBC, Kemmerer, Wyoming, and their missions. Two are in a place that is fully controlled by the old Mormon regime. Many of the people who show interest in the ministry of Jesus Christ, find themselves without a job and isolated. Pray for Pastor Tracey W. Coplen as he serves under those difficult conditions.

For: (1) International Missions Training Institute, Clinton and Newton (Partnership); (2) Please pray that the rains will soon begin in Burkina Faso. Since many ponds and wells are dry, people are having trouble finding water for themselves, their livestock, and also for baptisms.

For: (1) International Missions Training Institute, Brookhaven, Hattiesburg & Senatobia (Partnership); (2) Special Ministries Spring Fling, Garaywa, Clinton (SS); (3) Pray for Billy Graham's Evangelistic Mission June 27-30 at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Stacey Spencer
Worship Leader



Jake Gulledge
Music Worship Leader

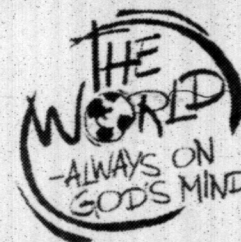
Super
Summer
2002

July 15-19

Mississippi
College

For more info contact: Harvey Ellis
Discipleship and Family Ministry
(601) 292-3286 or 1 (800) 748-1651

GA Father/Daughter Overnight



June 14-15
Camp Garaywa

Cost: \$33 per person

(includes meals, lodging, insurance,
T-shirt, and program fees)

Father/Daughter is a special time for fathers and their GA daughters (1-6 grade girls) to share the excitement of missions learning. This is also an excellent opportunity for those who have never been to Camp Garaywa to learn more about the camp program and facilities. All overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2 p.m. on Saturday. The registration deadline is May 31, 2002. If space is still available after the deadline date, reservations will be accepted at the cost of \$38 per person.

For more info, call the WMU: (601) 292-3316 or 1 (800) 748-1651.

With every breath, with every song... I praise You!

Gulfshore Music Leadership Conference

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, July 11-13, 2002

100 First Street • Pass Christian, MS • (228) 452-7261

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m.
COST: "A" Unit - \$92; "C" Unit - \$83
Handbell Audition: 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the Church Music Department, L. Graham Smith, Director
For more info, please call (601) 292-3267 or
1 (800) 748-1651

FEATURING:

Carl White, Camp Pastor
Ron Boud, Organ
Mary McDonald, Piano
Tim Moak, Electronic Keyboards
Anita Bice, Preschool
Barbara Sanders, Younger Children
Terry Taylor, Older Children
Lyndell Vaught, Senior Adult/Worship Emphasis
Bill Herman, Praise Team, Organization and Materials



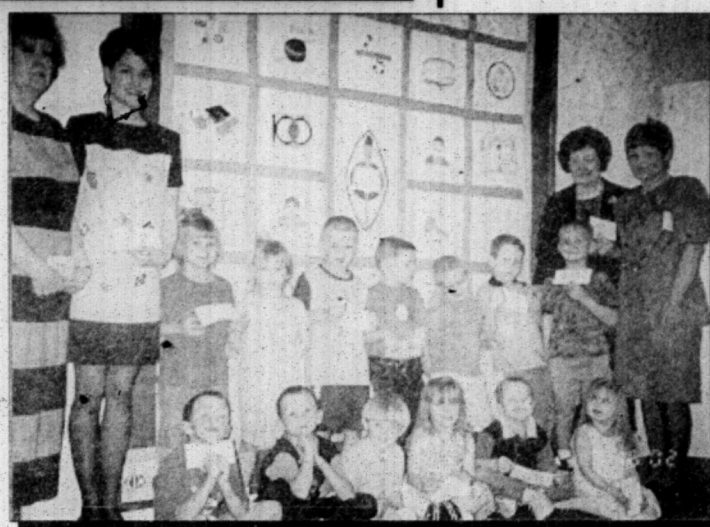
HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Youth of Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson

Youth of Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, led their congregation in worship on April 7. They also sponsored a "spuds supper" fundraiser during which the youth prepared and served baked potatoes, beverages, and desserts to their guests. Gerald Young is interim youth director; Philip Cooper, pastor.



Children of Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel

May 19 day of prayer slated for VBS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Day of Prayer for 2002 Vacation Bible School (VBS) is set for Sunday, May 19. On that day, pastors are encouraged to remind their congregations of the important part VBS can play in their lives of their churches.

"We encourage pastors to use this day as a time to commission VBS workers," said Becky Martin, VBS ministry specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. She added that other promotional ideas are available in the 2002 VBS Director's Planning Guide.

"It is urgent for pastors to see the value of VBS and hold up its potential to reach a lost world," Martin said. "The number of decisions to accept Christ made during VBS each year usually equal about 25 percent of the baptisms reported each year on the Annual Church Profile."

She added, "I dare say that since Sept. 11 there are more people who have heard about Allah than about the one true God. While the theme, 'Amazon Outfitters,' is fun, I think the rest of the theme, 'On Adventure with the One True God,' is the important part. I believe that God chose this theme long before we thought of it, knowing how important it is now that people have an opportunity to hear about him."

Churches can go to the 2002 VBS website prayer calendar at <http://www.lifeway.com/yourvbs/calendar.asp> to add their churches to the list.



MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC sought by church averaging 110 in Sunday School. Please e-mail resume to mwsjgb@vicksburg.com or fax to (601) 636-7574 or mail to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH Goodman, MS — seeking a bi-vocational or full-time pastor. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, Main Street Baptist Church, P.O. Box 206, Goodman, MS 39079-0206.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH, Jackson, is seeking a part-time staff member for a unique home bound ministry for members and the neighborhood. For more information, contact Dr. Greg Wolfe, P.O. Box 24189, Jackson, MS 39236; Phone (601) 368-2983.

BAY VISTA BAPTIST CHURCH is currently seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resumes to Bay Vista Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 2485 Pass Road, Biloxi, MS 39531.

HURLEY BAPTIST CHURCH — HURLEY, MS, seeking full-time minister of music and youth. Please send resume to: Hurley Baptist Search Committee, P.O. Box 395, Hurley, MS 39555.

ROLLING FORK BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a summer youth minister. Approximately 30 youth of Baptist and other denominations are involved. 2-bedroom house is provided. Position could turn full-time at the end of summer if desired. If interested, call Cissy Smith or Andy Anderson at (662) 873-4346 or the church office at (662) 873-2862.

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HOMECOMINGS

Salem Church, Kemper County: May 5; singing, 10:30 a.m.; memorial service and dinner on the grounds following; Jerry Jones, pastor.

Kennedy Springs Church, Magee: May 5; worship, 10:45 a.m.; lunch following in fellowship hall; afternoon singing

and new building dedication service; Carl Morris, Roger Lee, and Charles Burnham, speakers; Ken Harrison, pastor.

Mashulaville Church, Macon: May 5; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch following in fellowship hall; Jerry Zgarba, speaker.

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Harmony Church, Crystal Springs: May 5; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; cemetery association meeting, 1 p.m.; John Thweat, speaker; Clark Stewart, pastor.

Leflore Church, Holcomb: May 26; worship, 11 a.m.; noon dinner on grounds; singing, 2 p.m.; Everette Martin, Lexington, Tenn., speaker; Crimson Cross, Cleveland, music; Larry Livingston, pastor.

Union Church, Mayton: May 5; worship, 10:45 a.m.; lunch following and afternoon singing; Vernell Daniels, Philadelphia, speaker; One Voice, Belzoni, music; Larry Russell, pastor.



ALL SIZES
SALES AND RENTALS

Staff changes

Harrisville Church, Harrisville, has called **Ron Burch** as pastor. Burch previously served Improve Church, Columbia.

Richard Floyd, formerly pastor of Fellowship Church, Port Gibson, is available for interim, supply, revivals, or bivocational service. Floyd's address is 179 Keriville Dr., Jackson, MS 39212; Phone (601) 373-9236.

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(I believe in Jesus.)
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(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Grice and Spiers

Goodyear Church, Picayune, recently ordained Patrick Spiers (pictured right) as deacon. At 21 years of age, Spiers is the youngest deacon at Goodyear Church. Arlis F. Grice, pas-

tor, presented the certificate to Spiers.

First Church, Belzoni, honored Ruby Carver for her 32 years as a Sunday School teacher

in the Children I department of the church. Carver was presented with a plaque and certificate during the 116th anniversary of the church. Pictured with Carver (left) is George Johnson is pastor.



Carver and Johnson

Smith elected to NOBTS Board of Trustees



Jerry L. Smith, pastor of First Church, Summit, was elected vice chairman of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) Board of Trustees on March 13. Smith earned both his master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees at NOBTS. Smith and his wife, Patty, have three children, Casey, Graham, and Leslie. Pictured with Smith (right) is Chuck Kelley, president of NOBTS.

REVIVAL DATES

Noxapater, Noxapater:
May 5-8; Sunday 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Marion Felton, music; Kevin White, pastor.

Parkway Church, Clinton:
May 5-8; 10 a.m. (except Tue.) and 6 p.m.; Landrum Leavell, evangelist; Lonnie Steward, music.

Bay Vista, Biloxi: May 5-10; Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Darrell Robinson, Total

Church Life Ministries, Inc., evangelist; Lowery Anderson, Michael Memorial Church, Gulfport, music; Kevin Clifton, Jr., pastor.

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Arlington BC - Rev. Philip Marshall, Pastor
Janice BC - Phil Bryant, Chairman of Deacons

Evangelist - Rev. Bud Swindoll
Music Evangelist - Ken Shelton

AREA #3 CHURCHES

FBC, Richton - Rev. Buddy Keyes, Pastor
Loop Road BC - Rev. Freddie Odom, Pastor
Good Hope BC - Rev. Frances Holder, Int.
Brewer BC - Rev. Kenneth Ball, Pastor

Evangelist - Rev. Sonny Adkins
Music Evangelist - Gordan Alford

AREA #2 CHURCHES

Indian Springs BC - Rev. L.H. McCollough, Int.
FBC, New Augusta - Rev. Barry Armstrong, Pastor
Memorial BC - Rev. Rayford Moore, Int.
Seminary BC - Rev. Dan Hembree, Pastor

Evangelist - Dr. Jimmy Porter
Music Evangelist - Ken Culpepper

AREA #4 CHURCHES

FBC, Runnelstown (Sunday Evening)
Rev. Henry Freeman, Pastor
Bethel BC - (Monday & Tuesday Nights)
Rev. Ronnie Turner, Pastor
FBC, Runnelstown (Wednesday Evening)
Rev. Henry Freeman, Pastor

Evangelist - Dr. Bill Causey
Music Evangelist - Don Morgan

USE 'ALLEGEDLY'

Editor:

In the April 4 issue, the article entitled, Pressler to be nominated for SBC post, states, "Pressler, a leader in the conservative resurgence that returned the SBC to its Bible-based roots..." The wording, if it were used at all, should have been relegated to the editorial page since it is someone's opinion. The least the reporter could have done was to have used the admittedly over-worked word, "allegedly."

My question to the statement is: When did we leave our Bible-based roots?

Irene Martin
Forest

NO RESERVATIONS

Editor:

As an International Mission Board (IMB) missionary, I must respond to your February 21 editorial. There seems to be a lot of discussion in the press about the signing of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) by missionaries on the field. However, I have yet to read a report of what missionaries on the field are saying.

The biggest question expressed by other IMB missionaries in my area was not whether they should sign the form but how to get the signed form back to Richmond (most of us received it by e-mail). Not a single missionary I know on the field had any reservations about pledging their commitment to work and teach in accordance with and not

contrary to the 2000 BFM. Most, including myself, saw it as a further opportunity to affirm our accountability to the millions of Southern Baptist who hold the ropes for us at home through the Cooperative Program.

I am a Southern Baptist by conviction. Being a Baptist means that I hold the Word of God in high esteem and view it as my final authority. Historically, we have expressed our beliefs in the form of various confessions. These confessions guarded us from floundering on the shoals of relativism both theologically and practically.

So much unnecessary attention has been focused on this minor event that we are in danger of losing our focus on reaching people with the Gospel. Are we sharing the Gospel out there or our political views?

Michael Packard
West Africa

THANKS FOR MCF

Editor:

The Macedonian Call Foundation (MCF) is an organization established by missionary parents and other Mississippi Baptists to provide vehicles for missionaries while they are on stateside assignment. Many people across our state have participated by giving cars, vans, or monetary gifts, as well as time and effort on behalf of this ministry.

This organization is helping missionaries in so many ways. It relieves us of having to locate a vehicle when we return to the

States, as well as the expense of leasing or buying an automobile.

For these past months, our family has been blessed by this ministry. We want to express our sincere appreciation to MCF for this provision done in such a loving manner.

We especially want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hearon, who started the idea; W.C. Young, the directors, and all the others who have a part in this ministry. As we return to our field of service, we have been touched and blessed by your love in action.

Matt and Shea Williams
Southeast Asia/Oceania

Editor's note: MCF can be contacted at (601) 956-7770, or by e-mail at tjhear@attglobal.net.

BEARING FRUIT

Editor:

My wife and I have been International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries ministering to Muslims since 1991. I have followed the controversy over Jerry Rankin's suggestion that IMB missionaries affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message (BFM).

I think that opponents have challenged Rankin's suggestion primarily due to a lack of understanding. For example, Rex Yancey (Point/Counterpoint, April 18) doesn't realize that this affirmation is simply that. It is not a creed that people are required to sign. If there are personal differences with the BFM, the missionary is asked to explain them and then state if they agree to fulfill their ministry in accordance

with the BFM. Missionaries can, and do, have differences with the BFM and it is expected that they can defend their positions.

Further, Yancey links IMB with "State Baptist Conventions, associations, churches, and individuals who work in any of the above." The IMB is not any of those. We represent the entire Southern Baptist Convention and it is only natural to assume that we as Southern Baptist missionaries should represent the theological beliefs that best summarize the position of Southern Baptists.

Rankin has been used by God to reorganize IMB in the last five years. This struggle has refocused the IMB on seeing God worshipped among all people groups. God has worked through this as evidenced by dramatic increases in baptisms, churches started, and people groups engaged. God has used Rankin's leadership to bear much fruit through your missionaries.

Name withheld for
security reasons

MUST BE MEN

Editor:

I am appalled at the April 11 letter by Ed Williamson of Canon City, Co. If Williamson will read all the Bible, he will find that the Lord used women in several instances when men did not have inclination or faith to step up to the task.

Rivercrest Fellowship may not be liberal, but they are misguided. If the interpretation that a minister should be a man of God is gender-biased, then Scripture is gender-biased. Even Paul had women workers in his ministry but they were not preachers, ministers, or pastors. The biblical requirements for deacons are the same.

This may stir quite a controversy, but the truth is that the Bible says preachers, ministers, pastors, and deacons must be men.

L.B. Davis
Leland



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Ministry in physical crisis

Mark 5:21-43

By Sandra Gunn

A desperately ill child is always a tragic time for any family. Parents experience great feelings of helplessness at such times, but the story of Jairus and his dying daughter is not the main focus of this passage. For the Christian, the thrust of the lesson is found in the compassion of Jesus, who ministered to the most important people and the most despised people in town. Just as in the book of Amos, where we learned that God's judgement does not discriminate, neither does his grace, love, and compassion.

In this initial scene with Jairus, several observations need to be noted. We are told that

when Jesus had crossed the sea of Galilee and had disembarked, a great crowd had gathered. It is important to note that when Jairus approached Jesus, he fell at Jesus' feet. Jairus was a prominent synagogue official, in fact the highest ranking official in Capernaum. To have bowed down before Jesus in the midst of a crowd was to offer an act of great homage and reverence — possibly even an act of worship. Surely Jairus was aware of the strong opposition to Jesus that was already developing at this early stage of his ministry.

Whatever thoughts he may have had about the reaction of his fellow religious leaders, he knew that Jesus was the only



Gunn

source of help for his daughter. He proved his humility and sincerity.

Jairus believed that a touch of Jesus' hands could heal his daughter. Jesus gave that belief and trust his approval, for verse 24 says, "He went off with him."

One writer called this an interruption of Jesus' ministry that day. I believe this was on Jesus' schedule all along! His ministry on earth was to be available and accessible to hurting, desperate, and guilty people — all to show us the Father, and his great love for us.

In the meantime, while Jesus, Jairus, the disciples, and the crowd were walking toward Jairus' house, another so-called interruption came along, and Jesus healed the woman with the issue of blood.

Great need is the reason many people seek Jesus. God is not only sensitive to the needs of a multitude but to the cries of an individ-

ual. He sometimes leads us to temporarily put aside our ministry, which would touch many, in order to concentrate on one person's needs. We must be very sensitive to hear his plans for our day, and make them our own.

Jairus received the sad news from home that his daughter had died, and the suggestion was made that the Teacher need not be troubled any longer. Jesus' words were essentially for Jairus not to be afraid, but to have faith. Faith is the only victorious antagonist of fear. Faith outweighs a hundred good reasons for dread and despair. We can trust him in whom we put our faith.

Jesus allowed only Peter, James, and John to accompany him to the house. The hired mourners had begun the funeral with their wailings and shrieks. It is interesting here to note a fact that most of us who have lost one dear to us already know: true grief is, for the most part, silent!

Jesus rebuked them by saying, "This child has not died, but asleep." Then he cleared the room of all but the three closest to him and the little girl's mother and father.

The next events that occurred are so typical of our Lord. He took the child by the hand and said, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." By touching and speaking to her he manifested a compassion and tenderness that gives us another glimpse of his grace and love for us.

Immediately this twelve-year-old girl got up from her bed and began to walk. Not only did Jesus care for her very life, he also showed concern about her physical needs when he told the parents to give her something to eat. He had raised her by an extraordinary power, but he wanted her sustained by ordinary means. He gives us the greatest gift of all, but he takes care that we don't want for the least!

Gunn is a member of First Church, Biloxi.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Imitate God

Ephesians 5:1-21

By Robin Brumfield

This lesson is about Paul's instructions for Christians to imitate God in the way they live and what this means. The lesson challenges adults to imitate God through a daily lifestyle characterized by love, uprightness, and wisdom.

When considering their lifestyles, most people emphasize finances and possessions rather than ethics, morality, and integrity. Often they choose their lifestyles based on what is popular or what they have seen in others. This is particularly true for people they admire. This lesson will help adults describe the essential elements of a godly lifestyle and evaluate

how well they imitate God through their lifestyle.

The passage is broken down into four sections. The first section deals with the fact that believers are to imitate God (v. 1). Notice the word "imitators" ("followers," KJV). Verse one states: "Be imitators of God."

This means that a person is to become as much like God as they possibly can. Just as a child imitates his parents, so a believer ought to imitate God. Paul commanded Christians to live by no less than the example of God.

The main point that Paul is making here is that Christians are to imitate God every day and in every way and in every



Brumfield

event of their daily lives.

The second section deals with the fact that believers are to be loving and pure (vv. 2-7). Paul told Christians to live the kind of love demonstrated in the death of Jesus Christ. Christians are not to live immoral, impure, or greedy lives.

The main application for this section is for Christians to imitate God by lifestyles that are characterized by love. To gain a deeper appreciation of how to respond in love, read the passage on love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. When a believer views all events in life through the lens of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, he is on the right road to being loving and pure.

The third section deals with the fact that believers are to be upright (vv. 8-14). Paul uses the images of light and darkness. He described upright living as living in the light and doing

what pleases God.

Look at verse 10: "and find out what pleases the Lord." This means that believers are to spend time studying their Bible and seeing what Scripture tells us about the way believers are to live.

Although not specifically stated, it is definitely implied that after believers learn what to do, they are to put into action what they have learned. The main application for this section is that Christians imitate God when goodness, righteousness, and truth characterize their lifestyles.

The last section deals with the fact that believers are to be wise (vv. 15-21). This passage has one of the great Bible truths in it. Notice that verse 16 says, "making the most of every opportunity" ("redeeming the time," KJV).

This means that believers are to use their time wisely. In fact, if you want a barometer to tell you how spiritual you actually

are, record the use of your time for one week. The way you use your time will show you what is really important to you. It will also tell you how important being a servant of Jesus Christ is to you.

Most believers do not struggle with knowing what is right and wrong. Believers generally know what they are to do and what they should not do. We must decide between what is good, what is better, and what is best. The good is the deterrent to the better, and the better is the deterrent to the best.

In verses 15 to 21, Paul wanted Christians to take great care in how they lived. He wanted them to demonstrate wisdom in everything they were involved in their lives.

The main application for this section is that Christians imitate God when their lifestyles are characterized by wise decisions put into action.

Brumfield is interim pastor of Goodwater Church, Forest.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

FEBRUARY 1-28, 2002 MEMORIALS

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Bro. Steve Warren
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NBC reverses plan to air liquor ads

WASHINGTON (BP) — Twenty pro-family organizations, led by the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), have written the NBC television network to thank its executives for deciding not to air hard-liquor ads. They also recommended the network go a step further and ban all alcohol advertising. The letter from ERLC President Richard Land and others thanked NBC Chairman/Chief Executive Officer Robert Wright and President Randy Falco "for hearing the concerns of countless millions of American citizens and viewers nationwide." NBC announced March 20 it had decided not to telecast liquor ads, reversing a position it had made public in December. The latest decision returned the network to a voluntary ban on such advertising that had been in place for half a century. Representatives of a coalition of organizations, including the ERLC, met with NBC officials in early March in Washington to express their concerns. Wright and Falco may be contacted at NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10012.

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ASMCOSZ HLS ECID CR
HLW ESAGYTH; RCA ITHC
HLSS, C DCAN, NC O
DORH IB FW ECID.
BEYDF SOPLHW-EOV: RCIA

Clue: V = X

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Nahum One: Seven.

SEBTS announces \$50M expansion plan

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Southeastern Seminary (SEBTS) trustees voted to adopt a \$50 million development plan and expand campus facilities during their April 15-16 meeting on the Wake Forest, N.C., campus.

Trustees unanimously approved a recommendation that the administration formally request approval from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to conduct a multi-phased financial development plan to raise the \$50 million total.

"We stand on the threshold of a special time in the life of our seminary and in our effort to train the next generation of pastors and missionaries," said Bart Neal, the seminary's vice president for institutional advancement.

"I am grateful for the enthusiastic support and response that we have received from our board of visitors and board of trustees for this significant endeavor," he said.

Over the past five years, the seminary has completed the first phase of the master plan which included the renovation of Stephens-Mackie Hall for faculty offices, the renovation of Goldston Hall for student apartments, the updating of Adams Hall, which houses seminary classrooms, and the construction of the Jacumin-Simpson Missions Center.

The expansion will continue at Southeastern with the trustees' vote to develop plans for a new 40,000-square-foot multi-purpose student center. The Ledford Center, which currently houses student services, will be renovated to provide 50,000 square feet of space for physical fitness and recreation facilities.

The two-story student center will house a dining facility, kitchen, health and counseling services, coffee/ice cream shop and a computer lab for students. The construction of the student building will begin phase 2 of the campus master plan, the expansion of the west side of campus.

"I believe in the mission and vision of Southeastern and I am dedicated to supporting the expansion of the institution," said trustee Jim Goldston, Raleigh, N.C. "I believe the possibility of this expansion will bring more students to our campus and more students on our campus will broaden our influence in the future churches."

President Paige Patterson told the trustees the seminary must prepare for the future by accommodating the growth of the institution.

"Our churches are calling out the called," Patterson said. "'Until Jesus comes' is not just a slogan. It is our way of life. If he tarries, many thousands more will answer the call and come for training. We must be prepared with scholarship and a passion for reaching the lost, and we must be prepared with endowment and buildings and financial aid."

In his presidential address, Patterson spoke favorably of the recent visit from the Association of Theological Schools and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Patterson informed the board that the Association of Theological Schools has reaffirmed accreditation for the seminary for 10 more years.

The board elected Robert Cole as assistant professor of Old Testament and Semitic languages. David S. Hogg was introduced as assistant professor of church history under presidential appointment.



SEMINARY TO EXPAND — Southeastern Seminary President Paige Patterson refers to a chart while discussing expansion plans at the Wake Forest, N.C. campus with seminary trustees during their April 15-16 meeting. (BP photo by Kelly Davis)

The board of trustees also approved eight new classes. In the college, American Religious History, American Constitutional Development, United States History since 1945 and Conditioning for Health will be added. New courses in the seminary included Practicum in Sports Evangelism and Reaching the Radically Unchurched in America and doctoral seminars in New Testament Ethics and in Current Issues in New Testament Study. In other business:

- Trustees voted to increase faculty and staff salaries by three percent each.
- The board approved a record budget of \$17,637,907 for the 2002-2003 fiscal year, a 4.73% increase over the current year's budget.
- Student enrollment was reported at an all-time high at 2,225.

Author: talking of prayer 'just a passion of mine'

FORT WORTH (BP) — While prayer may seem as simple as communicating with God, Mary Kassian, widely known author and speaker, has drawn up a detailed model that shows women how to pray effectively for others.

The Hands-On Prayer Ministry Team Training Manual is "really an easy and simple method for ministering to others in prayer," Kassian told women attending a breakout seminar during a national women's convention.

The first national Christian Women's Convention, April 18-20 in Fort Worth, Texas, was sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. A second national women's convention will be Sept. 26-28 in Birmingham, Ala.

"I love talking about prayer. It is just a passion of mine," said Kassian, author of *Conversation Peace* and *In My Father's House: Women Relating to God as Father*, published by LifeWay.

The hands-on prayer ministry team-training model teaches people how to intercede for others. Hands-on prayer is praying for another person in their presence, personally interacting with them, ministering to them, and assuming responsibility for petitioning to God on their behalf, Kassian said.

"It is best to pray in teams because everybody has different gifts and strengths. You should have a maximum of four people and a minimum of two on the team," she said.

In her prayer ministry manual, Kassian lists the characteristics of a person who is good at praying "hands on."

She said people who are good at praying "hands on":

- are certain of their personal relationship to Jesus Christ;
- are confident in the promises and power of God;
- are actively pursuing righteousness in their lives, such as regularly confessing or forsaking their sins and reading the Bible;
- have a consistent personal prayer life;
- understand the basics of intercession;

• are accountable to and respect spiritual authority;

- have a spirit of humility and are teachable and open to correction; and
- have a heart of compassion and love for others.

Because Kassian has a background in rehab medicine, she compared her prayer ministry model to a medical model of accepting patients into a doctor's office or hospital, then treating and releasing them.

"Imagine you are a nurse and God is the Great Physician. He's giving the orders and he prescribes what is needed, but you are taking his instruction and handing out the medicine," she said.

Once a person identifies himself/herself as a candidate for prayer, the prayer team goes to minister to them, she said, following the six steps in her hands-on prayer model.

She said if the Holy Spirit is involved, a path will develop. "So often we're too busy praying and we don't take the time to listen. If we do, normally God tells us what to pray."

For more information on Kassian's ministry, visit www.lifeway.com and check out women's ministry under the Quick Find pull-down menu.



Kassian